



Isabella Forshall

## ISABELLA FORSHALL

CHM, FRCS, FRCSED

Isabella Forshall was one of the pioneers whose work did much to establish paediatric surgery as a recognised branch of surgery in the United Kingdom. It is remarkable that she should have done so at a time when women were not expected to achieve distinctions in the professions and when the surgical establishment did not encourage the development of subspecialties.

Isabella's childhood was spent in affluent surroundings in west Sussex. She was educated privately at home and never went to school. Her education, no doubt influenced by her mother, who had read classics at Girton in the 1890s, imbued her with a keen appreciation of art and literature and particularly poetry. It is perhaps surprising that a young woman of her time and background should have embarked on a career in medicine. When asked about the family's attitudes to her ambition she would say that she had been expected to make the observance of her social responsibilities her first priority and, although never encouraged to think of a career, was never actively discouraged.

Isabella was appointed house surgeon at the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital in 1929 and later at Alder Hey Children's Hospital and worked at these hospitals until her retirement in 1965. In 1939, while retaining her registrar post, she became honorary assistant surgeon at Birkenhead and Wirral Children's Hospital and Waterloo General Hospital. In 1942 she became an honorary surgeon at the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital.

It was not until the end of the war that Isabella was able to realise her ambitions for paediatric surgery. She gathered around her a group of young people in paediatric surgery and in the associated specialties, whom she fired with her own enthusiasm. This resulted in considerable advances in the surgical treatment of children and in the foundation in 1953 of the Liverpool neonatal surgical centre. During the first six years of its activity the mortality of infants with surgically treatable congenital abnormalities in the Liverpool region fell from 72% to 24%, and soon afterwards the Ministry of Health published a report on surgery of the newborn that strongly recommended the establishment of similar units in all regions.

These achievements brought Isabella widespread recognition nationally and internationally. In 1958 she became the second president of the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons; the next year she was elected president of the paediatric section of the Royal Society of Medicine. She was president of Liverpool Medical Institution in 1963, was elected an honorary member of the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons and of the British Paediatric Association, and in 1970 was awarded an honorary degree of master of surgery from the University of Liverpool. Despite having such a distinguished career she had no personal ambition and would give to her associates much more credit than they sometimes deserved for joint achievements; she fought only for the better care of children.

Those who enjoyed her friendship quickly learnt of her warmth, her delightfully mischievous humour, her abhorrence of pomposity, and her concern for all, particularly the deprived. It was this concern that caused her to be among the first to embark on the more enlightened approach to the needs of children in hospital that today is the norm: in her early days

parental visiting was greatly restricted and awareness of children's emotional needs was totally lacking.

Throughout her busy working life she devoted every spare moment to her garden, which was always a joy to see and where she loved to entertain on a summer evening. She was delighted to retire to her beloved Sussex.—JR.

*Isabella Forshall, formerly senior paediatric surgeon at Royal Liverpool and Alder Hey Children's Hospitals, died 10 August age 88. Born west Sussex; studied medicine at London School of Hospital for Women (MB, BS 1927).*

## G J LAWS

FRCPATH

Early in the second world war Gilbert Laws worked in the Emergency Medical Service at Hendon Hospital and the National Temperance Hospital. On his release from the service in 1941 he volunteered for the Royal Navy and served in a destroyer on the Malta runs. He was mentioned in dispatches for his part in rescuing the crew when the ship was sunk. He later went to the Far East with the battleship *Cleopatra*, which was the first Royal Navy ship to sail into Singapore harbour when hostilities ended.

He joined Hexham General Hospital as its first consultant pathologist and was responsible for developing the pathological service at the hospital. He was a member and one time chairman of the hospital management committee until his retirement. A great family man, he enjoyed fly fishing and dinghy sailing. He is survived by his wife, Mary; a son and daughter; and six grandchildren.—ML.

*Gilbert James Laws, a pathologist at Hexham General Hospital 1952-78, died 17 October. Educated Berkhamsted School and St John's College, Cambridge, and University College Hospital, London (MRCS, LRCP 1938; MB, BChir 1940). During war served in Royal Navy.*

## A S HUTCHESON

MB, CHB, DPH

Shortly after graduating Dr Archie, as he was known to his friends and colleagues, joined the public health team of Argyll. His widespread travels around mainland Argyll and the islands made him only too well aware how tuberculosis could affect families. He became the area tuberculosis officer and superintendent of Oban Sanatorium; commitment to the welfare of his patient was his aim. With the introduction of the antituberculosis drugs, much travelling, and follow up clinics in the remote areas, the disease was eradicated from Argyll. As it waned the old sanatorium gradually evolved into the County Hospital. Dr Archie was renowned for his kindness and courtesy and for his willingness to help his general practitioner colleagues. Nothing was a bother, and a bed was always found for a colleague with some dire medical emergency in some distant glen. He was a stalwart medical committee man and a tower of strength in standing up for the medical needs of Argyll.

A devout Christian, he carried his Christian ethos into his medical work and the innumerable services he carried out for the good of the community either as chairman or as a committee member. A keen Rotarian and former club president, he was awarded the Paul

*Obituaries of any doctors will be considered for publication provided that the doctors have worked in the United Kingdom for a large part of their career. Obituaries must be submitted exclusively to the BMJ and should be up to about 300 words long; they should be sent within six months, and preferably within three months, of death. "Self written" obituaries are welcome.*



P A Jones

Harris medal for his distinguished service to the Rotary.

His wife, Jean, gave him a secure happy home. In his retirement his two children and grandchildren were a source of joy to him. He bore his terminal illness with fortitude and dignity. — TC.

*Archibald Stewart Hutcheson, formerly a consultant chest physician to Argyll and Clyde Health Board, died 11 October. Studied medicine at Glasgow University (MB, ChB 1934).*

## P A JONES

MB, BS

After graduating Philip Jones spent most of his two years' national service in the Royal Army Medical Corps, working in psychiatry. He joined the general practice in Redditch in 1960. An active member of the BMA's Worcester and Bromsgrove division, he was chairman in 1973. He represented his colleagues on the Hereford and Worcester Family Practitioner Committee and on the local medical committee, of which he was the immediate past chairman of that body. The instigation, planning, and building of the Saltway's Cheshire Home in Redditch occupied a great deal of his time over 25 years. He was a founder member of the steering committee in 1968, chairman of the steering committee, chairman of the management committee 1970-7, and a member of the admission committee from 1974.

His colleagues found his encyclopaedic knowledge of NHS regulations, particularly those governing superannuation, a great help. He was a lively member of a group of general practitioners who enjoyed a weekly game of bridge. A devoted family man, he is survived by his wife, Anne, and his two children, Christopher and Katharine. — WWA.

*Philip Aneurin Jones, who had been a general practitioner in Redditch since 1960, died 23 September aged 57. Born London, 29 April 1932; educated Porth County Grammar School, University College Hospital Medical School (MB, BS 1955).*

## G H GIBBENS

MB, BS

Soon after graduating Gerald Gibbens joined a general practice in Sidmouth. He left the town for a few years during the war to join the Royal Navy. He served with the late Sir Peter Scott in HMS *Broke* on Atlantic convoys and continued a friendship with him and a common interest in natural history. Gerald was much amused to be, for a short while, the senior naval doctor in the Far East. At the end of the war he rejoined his practice.

Gerald was instrumental in merging the two practices in the town and guiding their transfer into one of the first purpose built health centres to be built in Devon. His patients' notes were carefully recorded, and this was the subject chosen for his presidential lecture to Exeter Medical Society. After he retired he enjoyed visiting patients in east Devon to assess them for attendance allowance and joined colleagues on medical boards.

Gerald had talents and interests entirely compatible with his life as a general practitioner. On his visits to patients he took photographs and built up a pictorial record of the town; he had a photographic darkroom next to his consulting room. A knowledgeable geologist and a competent map maker, he enjoyed writing and produced several books of local interest. He disseminated his enthusiasm to others and was chairman and president of the Sid Vale Association and the east Devon branch of the Devonshire Association. His

wife, Deirdre, was a curator of the Sidmouth Museum, and when she predeceased him he took over her role and continued the development of the museum. He was an enthusiastic brewer and a generous host. At one time he did his rounds in an open top Rolls-Royce, and he enjoyed sharing witticisms with his parrot; he was always full of fun, which he was ever ready to share with others. He is survived by a daughter and two sons. — PGA.

*Gerald Hartley Gibbens, a general practitioner in Sidmouth, Devon, 1937-74, died 29 October aged 80. Studied medicine at St Thomas's Hospital, London (MRCS, LRCP 1932; MB, BS 1933). During war served in Royal Navy.*

## T H SHAW

FRCPATH

Shortly after graduating Trevor Shaw obtained a post as clinical pathologist in the department of preventive medicine at the University of Bristol. In 1937 he began a long association with the Manchester municipal hospitals. In 1940 he was granted an emergency commission in the Royal Army Medical Corps as a specialist in pathology with the rank of major, which he held throughout his five and a half years of service. During his service he was attached to pathology departments in Iceland, Algeria, Tunisia, Greece, and Italy. He was invalided home from Italy in 1945 for convalescence from amoebic dysentery. He then returned to his previous post in Manchester as senior assistant pathologist to the municipal hospitals.

He obtained the post of pathologist at the Ipswich and East Suffolk Hospital in 1946. With his vast experience he was in a position to give the establishment good advice about pathological services when reorganisation was needed with the advent of the NHS. He remained in this post in Ipswich for 31 years.

Trevor had a pleasant personality and a great sense of humour. He was always ready to give help and advice whenever needed. Outside medicine his main interests were his family and his church. He is survived by his wife, Mary; two sons and three daughters; and nine grandchildren. — MB.

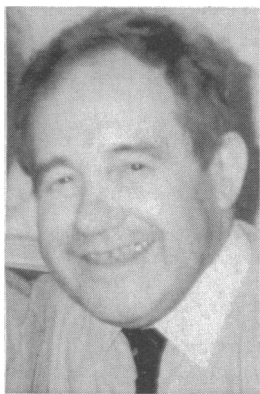
*Trevor Hamilton Shaw, a consultant pathologist at Ipswich and East Suffolk Hospital 1946-77, died 2 November aged 77. Educated at Campbell College, Belfast, and Queen's University of Belfast (MB, BCh, BAO 1934). During war served in Royal Army Medical Corps. Subsequently worked in Manchester.*

## J A DRYDEN

MB, BCHIR, DIH, DPH

John Dryden initially graduated in mathematics at Durham University and Christ's College, Cambridge. He then embarked on a career as an actuary but became disenchanted with this and returned to Cambridge to study medicine. After serving as a surgeon lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve he then entered general practice in Newcastle upon Tyne. In 1952, however, he gave this up to become an area medical officer with the National Coal Board. In 1956 he was appointed chief medical officer to the Nigerian Railway Corporation and Nigerian Ports Authority. This post required him to plan, initiate, and develop an industrial health service for a complex of ports, quarries, depot stations, and a communicating railway with 2000 miles of track. Remarkably, within three or four years he had completed the task and could provide the facilities and staffing structure needed for the industrial health and general medical care of some 40 000 employees and their families.

In 1961 he returned to the north east of England and



A D Mason

was appointed medical officer of health for the three urban district councils of Blaydon, Whickham, and Ryton on Tyneside, with additional duties as assistant county medical officer and clinical medical officer to the county. After retiring he moved to Torquay and, later, Weybridge.

John Dryden was kindly and sincere, a conscientious doctor, and a loyal friend. He is survived by his wife, Ada, and stepdaughter Jennifer. —THT.

*John Aungle Dryden, medical officer of health to Blaydon, Ryton, and Whickham urban districts 1961-74, died 29 October aged 80. Born Durham, 28 July 1909; educated Consett Grammar School, Durham University (BSc 1929; LMSSA 1942). Previous appointments with National Coal Board and in Nigeria.*

## A D MASON

FRCGP



J G Watson

David Mason was a gregarious man who loved life and lived it to the full. When war broke out he volunteered for the army and gave distinguished service as a gunnery officer until his demobilisation in 1945. He was captured in Java in 1942 and suffered severe hardship and malnutrition as a prisoner of the Japanese until his release in 1945. Despite his ordeals he entered the Welsh National School of Medicine in 1946. A popular student, he was deeply involved with college activities. He was a gifted sportsman and captained the college at both rugby and cricket. After graduating he played senior rugby and captained the Cowbridge cricket XI for several years.

He entered general practice in 1954 and spent the rest of his working life in Pontyclun and Llanharry. He was a trainer for many years. A keen medical politician, he was chairman of the Mid Glamorgan Local Medical Committee, president of Rhondda Medical Society, and a member of Mid Glamorgan Area Health Authority (1974-87). He was also a magistrate.

Dave was proud of his family, his profession, and his Welsh origins; he valued friends. He is survived by his wife, Jeanne; his son, Huw, who is also a general practitioner; his daughter, Debbie; and his two grandsons. —HGB, WAJ.

*Arthur David Mason, a general practitioner in Pontyclun and Llanharry, Mid Glamorgan, 1954-86, died on 17 October aged 68. Born Cwmparc, in Rhondda, 1922; studied medicine at Welsh National School of Medicine (MB, BCh 1952). During war served in Royal Artillery (mentioned in dispatches).*

## J G WATSON

MD, FRCP, FRCPED, DCH

Graham Watson was committed to the care of children from his student days in Edinburgh, when he was awarded the Ellis prize and university medal in paediatrics. A year spent as a flying doctor in Zambia immediately after registration laid the foundation for an urge to travel and explore that never left him. It also made him aware of the problems for doctors practising in the Third World, and he made special efforts to look after doctors visiting from overseas and went out of his way to help them. He was a gifted teacher.

In 1972 he joined the staff of Westminster Children's Hospital, and it was there that his interest in immunology and bone marrow transplantation was born. The bone marrow transplant unit at the hospital owes an enormous debt to Graham and his then future wife, Jenny, who were respectively lecturer and sister in charge of the unit during its formative years. They made a remarkable team and inspired and supported children, parents, and staff through very difficult periods. At a time when most bone marrow transplant units were concentrating on treating leukaemia

and aplastic anaemia the Westminster team had the courage to embark on an entirely new aspect of transplantation—that for inborn errors of metabolism and congenital immune deficiency. Many of the innovative practices developed in that unit are now standard procedures around the world. Graham's love for work and travel came together when he was asked to go to Peru to perform the first bone marrow transplantation in South America.

Further appointments at the Royal Marsden and Royal Free Hospitals in London were followed by his appointment as consultant paediatrician in Newcastle in 1983, where he rapidly developed a practice in both general paediatrics and immunology, latterly taking a special interest in children with AIDS. He also developed an innovative approach to the treatment of babies with immune deficiency, using bone marrow transplants from unmatched donors, and at the time of his death he was far advanced with plans to make his unit and the Hospital for Sick Children in London a joint national centre for the treatment of such babies.

He and Jenny died together in a mountain accident in Glencoe. They were a wonderfully hospitable couple, and their summer garden parties and special Hogmanay event will long be remembered. Their love of travel took them to most parts of the globe, including China and the Himalayas. Unfortunately, they were not able to have children of their own. —AWC.

*James Graham Watson, consultant paediatrician at Newcastle General Hospital, died 15 October aged 44. Educated Kirkcudbright Academy; George Watson's College, Edinburgh; Edinburgh University (MB, ChB 1969). Previous appointments at Westminster Children's Hospital, Royal Marsden Hospital, and Royal Free Hospital, London.*

**Dr William Hugh Hamilton Calwell, MRCP, DTM&H, a consultant physician at Southmead Hospital, Bristol, died on 24 November aged 48. Like his father and grandfather before him he was educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution and at Queen's University, Belfast, graduating MB, BCh, BAO in 1966. His love and fascination for Africa and its people prompted him to travel to Nigeria by jeep during the civil war there in the late 1960s. At his own expense he offered his medical skills, but the war and bureaucracy thwarted his aims and he was forced home. In the early 1970s he was appointed a medical officer to the government in Zambia. This time a serious tropical illness forced his return to the United Kingdom and progress to full health. He subsequently worked as a research registrar in haematology at Southampton University before being appointed a consultant physician at Southmead Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Doris, and their children, Michael, Jennifer, and John. —WC.**

**Dr Arthur Francis Harriott (Harry) Coke, MRCS, LRCP, formerly physician and director of the research laboratory at the Charterhouse Rheumatism Clinic in London, died at the end of September. He qualified from St Mary's Hospital, London, in 1930 and later became a senior clinical assistant in the children's outpatient department there. He then practised privately in bacteriology and biochemistry and joined the staff of the Charterhouse Clinic before the second world war. He was a past president of Chelsea Clinical Society. Harry was proud of his descent from Sir Edward Coke, one of the authors of a petition of rights presented to King Charles I. Almost 20 years ago he retired to Norfolk near Holkham Hall, the seat of his ancestors. A loyal member of the Heberden Society, he was disabled in his later years by ankylosing spondylitis. He is survived by his wife, Janet. —PHNW.**